

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03243 140930Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 /058 W
-----140934Z 060244 /14

P R 140900Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8251
INFO COMIDEASTFOR
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USS TRIPPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CNO WASHDC
WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL KUWAIT 3243

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI
SUBJECT: KUWAIT REQUEST FOR SAR ASSISTANCE

REF: A. KUWAIT 3224 NOTAL
B. COMIDEASTFOR 140118Z JUN 77 (NOTAL)

1. CO-PILOT OF KUWAIT HELICOPTER WHICH DITCHED
JUNE 12 IN PERSIAN GULF OFF KUWAITI COAST SURVIVED
DITCHING AND COMIDEASTFOR OFFICERS WERE PRESENT AT
DEBRIEFING EARLY JUNE 14. LATTER ARRIVED IN KUWAIT
JUNE 13 IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY REQUEST (REF A).
PILOT AND CREW MAN STILL STRAPPED IN KUWAITI
HELICOPTER WHEN IT SANK ACCORDING TO SURVIVOR.
KUWAIT MILITARY STILL SEARCHING WITH BOATS, DIVERS,
AND AIRCRAFT FOR HELICOPTER UNDERWATER, TO THE
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03243 140930Z

SOUTHWEST OF QARUH ISLAND, OFF THE COAST
OF SOUTHERN KUWAIT. DURING THE NIGHT OF JUNE 13-14
COMIDEASTFOR PERSONNEL AIDED KAF TO DEFINE
COORDINATES OF SEARCH AREA, BUT SINCE SURVIVOR
REPORTEDLY WAS PICKED UP BY SMALL PRIVATE VESSEL
AT UNKNOWN LOCATION AFTER SOME 24 HOURS IN WATER,
THE EXACT POSITION OF THE HELICOPTER DITCHING

IS NOT KNOWN. KAF HAS FOUND GASOLINE SLICK WHICH IT BELIEVES MARKS DITCHING VICINITY.

2. THE GOK HAS REQUESTED THAT THE USS TRIPPE, WHICH ARRIVES IN BAHRAIN FOR REFUELING MORNING OF JUNE 14, CONTINUE ON TO KUWAIT TO JOIN SEARCH FOR LOST HELICOPTER. COMIDEASTFOR HAS ORDERED TRIPPE TO PROCEED AT BEST SPEED TO CRASH SITE AFTER REFUELING. TRIPPE HAS ON BOARD A HELICOPTER EQUIPPED WITH METAL DETECTION DEVICE (MAD). WE UNDERSTAND THAT TRIPPE WILL DEPART BAHRAIN FOR CRASH AREA ABOUT 1300 ZULU JUNE 14 AND WILL BE CLOSE ENOUGH TO LAUNCH ITS MAD HELICOPTER BY 1800 ZULU JUNE 14, ALLOWING SEVERAL HOURS OF SEARCH BEFORE DARKNESS JUNE 14.

3. COMIDEASTFOR REPS IN KUWAIT (KAF HEADQUARTERS) WILL BE COMMUNICATING WITH TRIPPE BY RADIO TO COORDINATE US ROLE IN SAR EFFORT.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TRIPPE HAS NO RECOVERY EQUIPMENT SUITABLE FOR RECOVERING HELICOPTER FROM UNDERWATER.
MAESTRONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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